**Draft Focus Group Questions for AVP Advanced Workshop**

*May 2017*

*The session should either be recorded, or if the group declines, then detailed, legible, notes should be taken by someone who has not facilitated any of the workshops attended by the group participants. It is suggested that AVP be responsible for transcribing the recording.*

*Materials required: Copies of network map worksheet, and coloured pens/pencils. Digital recorder (can be loaned from STARTTS research team). Note-taking materials.*

**Introduction**

*Points to cover:*

* *Aim of focus group discussion is to evaluate AVP to learn more about its benefits and find ways to improve it.*
* *Feedback and suggestions will be analysed to identify common themes outlined by the group as a whole – individuals will not be identified in any reports.*
* *Appeal for honesty – no right or wrong answers.*
* *Participation is optional – anyone who does not want to be part of the discussion can step outside at any point, and we’ll let you know when we’re finished.*
* *Request permission to record session to ensure all comments are collected accurately. If group prefers not to be recorded, get permission to take detailed written notes instead.*

**Mapping Exercise**

*Hand out worksheets. Warn that you will be collecting them to help the researchers understand the recording/notes.*

*Imaginative exercise*: Think back to before you attended your first AVP workshop. Think about the important people in your life, and the people you encountered day to day. Think about the sorts of interactions you had with them, what your relationships were like... Now think about how things are today, since you have been involved with AVP. Think about any changes you may have noticed in your relationships, and in your interactions with other people.

*Step 1:* Write words (e.g. “sister”) or draw symbols in the rings to represent the important people in your life e.g. family members, friends, people you are close to. You can add more rings if you need to. Don’t write their names, since we will be collecting the worksheets.

*(allow time to do this)*

*Step 2:* Circle anyone where you think there has been some change in your relationship as a result of participating in AVP, and write a brief note or draw a symbol to show the nature of the change. (e.g. “talk more on the phone”, or a drawing of a phone)

*(allow time to do this)*

*Step 3:* Outside the main map, add in words or symbols to represent any other relationships that have developed or changed as a result of participating in AVP (e.g. “neighbour”). In particular, anyone from outside your immediate social circle or community. Have you met anyone new, or gotten to know anyone better?

**Discussion of Map**

1. Who circled one or more of the close people – the ones inside the rings? What types of changes have you noticed in those relationships?

*Optional follow-up questions if needed:*

* *Any changes to relationships with family? With friends? With other close people?*
* *Any changes in how you communicate? Anything you stopped doing? Started doing? Do differently now?*

2. Who didn’t circle anyone? Can you tell me more about that?

*Optional follow-up question if needed:*

* *Did you find it difficult to implement the skills you learnt from AVP within your relationships?*

3. Who drew in some people outside the rings? What kinds of changes did you notice?

*Optional follow-up questions if needed:*

* *Any new people that you met since the last training? What was AVP’s role?*
* *Any people you already knew, but the relationship has changed? How has it changed?*
* *Have there been any new or changed connections with people from outside your own community? Can you tell me more about that? What was AVP’s role?*

4. Who didn’t add anyone outside the rings? Can you tell me more about that?

*Optional follow-up question if needed:*

* *Did you find it difficult to implement the skills you learnt from AVP when interacting with people you didn’t know or people outside of your community?*

**Exploring for Unexpected Outcomes**

5. We’ve heard about the changes you’ve noticed in your relationships with others. Are there any other changes you’ve noticed as a result of AVP?

*Optional follow-up questions if needed:*

* *What are the most important things you have learnt?*
* *Any changes in your thoughts or attitudes?*
* *Any changes in your behaviour?*
* *Any changes in your emotions, in how you feel?*
* *Is there anything else that you would like to share about your experience with AVP that I have not mentioned?*

**Request for Feedback**

6. What have been the best or most useful aspects of AVP? Why?

7. What do you think we should differently next time?

**Review of Evaluation Process**

8. As you know, we have been evaluating the program this year, including this discussion and also asking you to complete a questionnaire before and after each workshop. How has this been for you?

*Optional follow-up questions if needed:*

* *Has it raised any difficulties or concerns for you? Can you tell me about them?*
* *Were there any positive aspects to the evaluation for you?*

9. Are there any changes we should make to the evaluation in future?

*Optional follow-up questions if needed:*

* *What do you think about the questionnaires?*
* *What do you think of the questions we discussed today?*
* *Is there anything else we should have asked about, but didn’t?*